

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 SY-04

SCCT-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 /060 W
----- 120127

R 101049Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7511

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: STUDENT AGITATION FADING

REF: LAGOS 294

1. STUDENT AGITATION REPORTED REFTEL HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO FADE. THOUGH STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS DEMONSTRATED AGAIN ON JANUARY 9, BLOCKING UNIVERSITY GATES FOR SEVERAL HOURS, LEADER OF THEIR STUDENT UNION ANNOUNCED AT END OF DAY THAT BOYCOTT WAS BEING SUSPENDED PENDING MEETING JANUARY 25 OF NATIONAL UNION NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NUNS). PRESS REPORTED THAT HIS ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO REFERRED TO END OF BOYCOTT AT UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, BUT THIS NOT YET CONFIRMED ELSEWHERE.

2. SOME OF IMPETUS FOR DECISION TO SUSPEND BOYCOTT MAY HAVE COME FROM ACTION TAKEN BY SENATE AND VICE-CHANCELLOR AT UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, WHICH CLOSED CAMPUS ENTIRELY AND ORDERED STUDENTS HOME UNTIL THEY ARE WILLING PLEDGE TO FOLLOW A NORMAL WORK SCHEDULE. ACTION AT BENIN, WHICH LIKE OTHER UNIVERSITIES IS AUTONOMOUS, MAY REFLECT DESIRE NEWLY APPOINTED VICE-CHANCELLOR TO ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY,
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AS SITUATION ON CAMPUS THERE HAD REMAINED ENTIRELY PEACEFUL.

3. SUSPENDED OF BOYCOTT MAY ALSO REFLECT GROWING STUDENT REALIZATION THAT THEIR MOVEMENT UNABLE OBTAIN UNANIMOUS BACKING AT ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. UNIVERSITY OF IFE, FOR EXAMPLE, DECIDED ONLY ON TWO-DAY "HUNGER STRIKE" BUT DECLINED JOIN BOYCOTT, WHILE SOME STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO CLASS JANUARY 9.

4. COMMENT: FOR TIME BEING, FMG SHOULD BE ABLE PUT STUDENT QUESTION ON BACK BURNER AS IT DEALS WITH MORE PRESSING PROBLEMS ON LABOR FRONT.
REINHARDT

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